



LAWRENCE S. CHIN, M.D.

Assistant Professor  
Chief of Neuro-oncology

Medical Director, Gamma Knife Center

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

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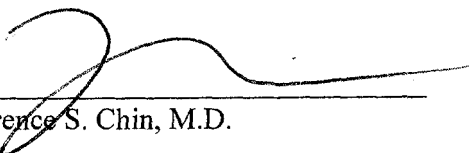
RE: Docket #97N-484S

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a neurosurgeon in academic practice at the University of Maryland. I have used cataveric bone in my practice for ten years and found it to be extremely valuable. I have never had an adverse reaction to the use of this material. It is now part of my routine practice when performing an anterior cervical discectomy and fusion. The use of this cataveric allograft has allowed me to avoid harvesting iliac crest grafts in all of my patients. This greatly reduces the discomfort of cervical spine surgery as the patients usually complain of pain over their hip rather than pain in the neck.

Restricting access to cadaver bone would be highly detrimental to my practice and would be a disservice to my patients. I strongly urge you not to regulate cadaver bone as a medical device. It is part of standard medical practice for many neurosurgeons throughout the country.

Sincerely,

  
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Lawrence S. Chin, M.D.

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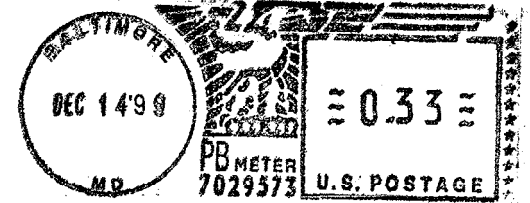
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University of Maryland  
Medical Center

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Neurosurgery  
22 South Greene Street  
Suite S-12-D  
Baltimore, MD 21201-1595



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